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LETTER DATED 1 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit copies of two notes verbales with attachments, dated 21 May 1997, from the Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Washington, D.C., to the Embassy of Pakistan to be forwarded to the United States Department of State, on the violation of the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the forces of the United States of America in the Persian Gulf region (see annexes I and II).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annexes were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Majid TAKHT-RAVANCHI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

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Annex I

Note verbale dated 21 May 1997 from the Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Washington, D.C., addressed to the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington, D.C.

The Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Washington, D.C., presents its compliments to the Embassy of Pakistan and has the honour to quote the attached message received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran (see appendix). It is respectfully requested that the text be transmitted to the United States Department of State and that our office be informed of their response.

Appendix

According to information received from officials of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, United States airplanes created nuisances for Iranian sea-patrolling aircrafts on the following dates and hours:

1. On 8 October 1996, at 0903 hours, US S-3 aircraft number 722 intercepted an Iranian sea-patrolling P3F aircraft, whose position was 26° 50'N and 52° 12'E, for a period of 10 minutes.

2. On 14 February 1997, at 1255 hours, six US aircraft flying at a speed of 450 miles per hour and an altitude of 30,000 feet violated the territorial airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran and left at position 30° 40'N and 47° 40'E.

3. On 14 February 1997, at 1257 hours, two US aircraft flying at a speed of 600 miles per hour and an altitude of 23,000 feet violated the territorial airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran, proceeding as far as 30° 40'N and 48° 20'E.

4. On 20 February 1997, at 0940 hours, a US aircraft flying at a speed of 300 miles per hour and an altitude of about 18,000 feet created a nuisance and intercepted an Iranian National Oil Company Fowker-50 aircraft.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran protests against such unjustifiable measures by US aircraft and insistently calls for an end to these actions as being contrary to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Annex II

Note verbale dated 21 May 1997 from the Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Washington, D.C., addressed to the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington, D.C.

The Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Washington, D.C., presents its compliments to the Embassy of Pakistan and has the honour to quote the attached message received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran (see appendix). It is respectfully requested that the text be transmitted to the United States Department of State and that our office be informed of their response.

Appendix

According to information received from officials of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 9 March 1997, at 1540 hours, United States warship Holi Burton, number FFG40, at position 29° 01'N and 50° 25'E inside the territorial waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran, changed its position to 28° 55'N and 50° 25'E, then to 28° 49'N and 50° 39'E and afterwards to 27° 50'N and 51° 09'E. After receiving warnings from the Islamic Republic of Iran's battleship, the US warship left the territorial waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the entire time the US warship was violating the territorial waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran and changed its course several times, it kept its lights off all night, had a helicopter flying over and claimed to be in international waters.

Considering the following actions taken by the US warship:

1. The US warship violated regulations by its sudden entrance into the territorial waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which, according to regulations, requires prior permission.

2. Considering the fact that territorial waters are part of a country's territory, the US helicopter flying over the territorial waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran should have had prior permission. The US helicopter violated this regulation.

3. The US warship demonstrated a spiteful attitude toward the Islamic Republic of Iran's battleship and insisted on remaining in the territorial waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran under the pretext of being in international waters.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran protests against such unjustifiable violations by US warships and insistently calls for an end to these actions as being contrary to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran.